

Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department  
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### Notice to the Community

Since 2014, the Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department has developed protocol agreements with Recreation and Eco-Tourism companies. These agreements set out management fees, community development fees, as well as bursary and scholarship fees. The average amount received by HIRMD for all the protocol agreements are approximately \$120,000.00 per year. With the exception to stewardship fees, we hand out donations/support to things such as basketball clubs, individual members in advanced education programs, and bursaries and scholarships to those in either skills and training or university programs. The HIRMD advances the donations and support to our members whether they live in Bella Bella or not. We are thankful to be able to ensure that all members are eligible for requests for funding support, no matter where they live. This is aligned with our Heiltsuk Gvi'las.

On behalf of the Heiltsuk Nation, we have followed the concerns of our members around the businesses that operate in our territory. Some of the policies that are implemented are to ensure that operations in all sectors don't leave anything behind, and to minimize impact on the environment. These protocol agreements also ensure that the companies give back to our Nation. This is called Corporate Social Responsibility. Corporate Social Responsibility is a company's commitment to manage the social, environmental, and economic effects of its operations responsibly. This requires the company to take into consideration that the greater community around them has vested interests in the management of its operations. For example, companies working in Heiltsuk Territory benefit from the resources that are extracted. Due to the current jurisdictions, Heiltsuk doesn't benefit from any of this. However, with protocol agreements drafted by Heiltsuk, companies that are operating in our territory contribute a fee to HIRMD. This is a way that we are holding these companies socially accountable. All companies that we have protocol agreements with now, have recognized this and have agreed to give back to the Heiltsuk Nation. They recognize our jurisdiction, authority and our inherent title and rights as Heiltsuk people. We are happy that we were able to work out separate protocol agreements with the majority of businesses working in our territory. There is at least one company that has been working in our territory since 2017 but has refused to come to the table to sign a protocol agreement. This creates a feeling of uneasiness because they are unaware of the parameters, we have set in place to ensure environmental sustainability. We continue to seek resolution and will continue to do so until we come to an agreement. This is a way of establishing our sovereignty as Heiltsuk.

Any funding requests that come to the HIRMD, are reviewed, considered and approved for support. HIRMD provides the services and the administration fund is charged at 10% to go back to the work of our finance department. No HIRMD staff take any of the funds for their own use. Our finance department has policies for purchase orders, invoicing and payment for any request. Any payments require two people to make any cheque or payment valid. At no time, is the HIRMD administration or board allowed to be in a conflict or take payments or gifts from any of our protocol agreements.

In closing, I want to assure you that the HIRMD office has an open-door policy and any of our staff will be able to walk through any finance concerns you may have on how resources are spent under HIRMD. We continue to obligate ourselves to be accountable and transparent to each of you. Please call or drop by at any time to discuss all the work we do on your behalf.

Respectfully,

Kelly R. Brown



HIRMD Director

